



**IDAHO COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

# VISIONS & VALUES

Volume 18, Issue 3 Fall 2006

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Council Five Year Plan .....	1
Leader: Shiloh Blackburn ...	1
Determined to Vote .....	2
Partners in Policymaking ....	2
Treasure Valley	
Resource Fair .....	3
Issues to Watch .....	4
Self-Directed Services .....	4
Disaster Preparedness .....	5
Get the Facts To Vote .....	5
Theresa Wilding Honored ..	6
IDEA Regulations Final .....	6
Chair's Editorial .....	7
Director's Editorial .....	7
New Council Members .....	8
What's Happening .....	8

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rick Betzer, Chair, Shelley  
James Steed, Vice-Chair, Pocatello  
Kristyn Herbert, Cons. Rep., Boise  
Corey Barnard, Rexburg  
Jim Baugh, Boise  
Shiloh Blackburn, Rexburg  
Mary Bostick, Boise  
Dona Butler, Nampa  
Leslie Clement, Boise  
Donna Denney, Midvale  
Debbie DePaola, Lava Hot Springs  
Paige Fincher, Boise  
Julie Fodor, Moscow  
Bob Jackson, Eagle  
Corinne Johnson, Coeur d'Alene  
Mary Johnson, Grangeville  
Kim Kane, Boise  
Penny Larson, Dubois  
Ame Linch, Twin Falls  
Liz Ricciardi, Coeur d'Alene  
Mike Smith, Moscow  
Theresa Wilding, St. Anthony  
JAMES E. RISCH, GOVERNOR  
Marilyn B. Sword, Executive Director

## COUNCIL FIVE YEAR PLAN FINALIZED

Following 15 months of gathering input and developing and revising numerous goals, outcomes and objectives, Idaho's Five-Year Strategic Plan was approved by vote of the Council and sent to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in mid-August. The plan outlines the Council's direction for the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2011.

Six major life areas were selected as top priorities, they were:

1) Formal and Informal Community Supports; 2) Education; 3) Employment; 4) Housing; 5) Quality Assurance; and 6) Transportation. From these six major life areas, the plan breaks down into 22 measurable performance targets. The Council will

evaluate success based upon progress in meeting the established performance targets.

The Council did not address all possible life areas, by electing not to pursue Recreation, Health and Child Care. Based on data gathered from the Council's 2005 plan questionnaire, these areas were not rated as high priorities by respondents. However, if critical issues surface in these areas in the interim, the Council could decide to amend the plan and take action as necessary.

The plan contains multiple objectives directed at sharing information about services available in Idaho. Information sharing will occur in a variety of settings to different

*(continued on page 6)*



## Leaders to Watch - Shiloh Blackburn

Shiloh Blackburn's dream as a child and today as an adult is to become a published author. The young Rexburg native regularly records her experiences and observations on her own personal blog site. She has earned associate and bachelor degrees in mass communication, specializing in journalism. "I have always loved writing; it's my passion", she gushed.

Her blog contains her impressions about the many books she has read, about not being able to get her wheel-

chair into the home of the hostess of her ward's relief society and, her reflections on some of her favorite quotations. If that is not enough she also shares verses of her poetry writings in free form. Shiloh spends a considerable amount of time each week writing on her blog, but she also has other interests.

Shiloh is one of the Council's newest members, having been appointed by Governor Risch in July. She is a member of the Region 7 "Determined to Vote" team to train people with disabilities to

*(continued on page 3)*



## COUNCIL PROJECTS

Here in Idaho, an exciting and novel approach is being taken to reach out to seniors and people with disabilities to provide education on voting. This education campaign is called DETERMINED TO VOTE. It is funded by a Federal grant from Health and Human Services as part of the Help America Vote Act through the Office of the Idaho Secretary of State, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.

Throughout the state, in each of the 7 Health & Welfare regions, two-person teams of trainers are gearing up for the general election cycle of presentations. This spring each team, comprised of people with disabilities, made two presentations in their region before the Primary Election. Now the teams are set to make 3 presentations in their respective regions before the

General Election on November 7.

At each presentation the trainers bring along a machine designed to make sure all have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Known as the ballot marking device, it assists voters, who have a disability mark a ballot privately and independently.

As a person with disability and a Determined to VOTE trainer myself, I've found these presentations to be very fulfilling...the presentations break down the walls of isolation that can come with advancing age or having a disability. I've seen in the eyes of the attendees the excitement they convey knowing they have been reached out to...reached out to with the reminder that the opinions and votes of the elderly and those with disabilities are just as important as those of other citizens.

Each presentation covers the topics vital to the process of exercising the right to vote, such

as how to register, the rights of voters, and accessibility to the polls. The teams in each region are supported by the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc., and the League of Women Voters. These organizations know how vital it is that information on voting reaches seniors and people with disabilities.

The DETERMINED TO VOTE campaign is critical to educating the elderly and people with disabilities on the right and responsibility to vote. Voting is an act of equality. By voting, people with disabilities are making the statement that we are taking our rightful place at the table of democracy with all voter groups.

Think about it. The President of the United States, the CEO of Idaho's largest company, and you have one thing in common: ONE VOTE!

*Written by: Mark Seeley, Determined to VOTE Trainer*

## What's Up with Idaho Partners in Policymaking?

The Council has been receiving phone calls and e-mails from people wondering what is happening with the Partners in Policymaking program. So here's the scoop!

The Council is working with the Center on Disability and Human Development (CDHD) to talk to Partner graduates about what has gone well with the program, and share ideas they may have to improve the Partners. This past June, the Council sent a survey to all of our Partner graduates. The survey asked

graduates about the training schedule, training topics, what ways the program helped the most, and what was most meaningful to them in the overall leadership development experience. We learned a great deal from the surveys.

In July and August, staff from the Council and the CDHD met with Partner graduates in 4 separate focus groups held in Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Pocatello, and Boise. Each focus group provided new ideas and possibilities. Over the next couple of

months the Council and the CDHD will develop recommendations for improvements to the program based on graduate surveys, focus group input, and what we have learned from coordinating the program. The Council anticipates the next class of Partners will be in 2008.

Idaho Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of children who have developmental disabilities.

## COUNCIL PROJECTS

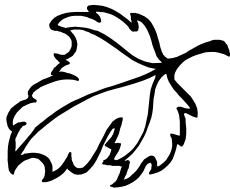
### Shiloh Blackburn

*(continued from page 1)*

register and vote by using accessible ballot marking machines. "I love to train people and see their minds begin to work as they understand their rights to vote". "As a member of the Region 7 team, I can see that I am making a difference for people who have never voted".

Through an online forum Shiloh corresponds with other women with disabilities in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Finland. They all share their experiences about living with a disability and about their supports and services.

Reflecting on her leadership motivation, Shiloh says that she wants to be an example to other people with disabilities so they can become aware of what they can do. "I want them to realize that if there's a will, there's a way". Shiloh Blackburn lives by those words each and every day; she is a true leader by example.



*Vision*

"All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities."

### Treasure Valley "An Adventure of a Life Time - A Life Time of Wellness" Resource Fair

Held August 26 at Adventure Island Playground, Meridian





## STATE NEWS

# Issues to Watch in the 2007 Legislative Session

The First Regular Session of the 59th Idaho Legislature will begin on Monday, January 8, 2007. Although the typical issues of taxes, education spending, and costs for prisons and Medicaid are apt to be front and center, there are also a number of issues that disability advocates will be watching.

The State Independent Living Council is sponsoring legislation that would designate the 3rd week of each October as Disability History Week. If this is approved, public schools would be required to include information on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement in their classroom studies during that week.

At least one bill will be proposed that would lower the school age for children without disabilities to younger than 5. Schools already provide preschool services to children ages 3-5 with disabilities. Passage of this bill would provide schools with the opportunity to offer integrated preschool programs.

An issue that has been considered before will be back. This bill would waive Idaho State government's immunity from lawsuits by Idaho citizens who are victims of discrimination because of disability.

It would allow Idahoans access to the courts regarding violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in employment and other areas.

Administrative rules provide details on how laws are implemented. This year rules will be considered covering the Family Support program (DHW), Extended Employment Services (Vocational Rehabilitation) and Self Directed Services and Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (DHW).

Other issues of interest are deaf education reform, community resource workers in schools, recognition of American Sign Language as a foreign language, accessibility requirements for housing built with public funds, extending federal accessibility standards for information technology to Idaho state agencies, and changes to insurance law dealing with coverage for children with congenital anomalies. Watch for updates from the Council on these issues and more as the Legislature begins.

## My Voice, My Choice - Self-Directed Services Option: How It Works

If you are an adult who is eligible for Medicaid developmental disabilities waiver services and you choose to self-direct your services, here is how it works. You get an **Individual Budget** that you are able to use to buy the services, supports and goods you need for one full year. Your budget amount is decided by an assessment that you do with the Independent Assessment Provider.

You work with a **Support Broker** that you hire to help you direct your services and supports, get the information you need to make decisions and make a plan to spend the money in your budget account.

You write a **Support and Spending Plan** with help from your support broker. The plan includes all the services, tasks and goods that you will pay for with your budget. You can also choose family, friends and people you trust to be your **Circle of Support** and help you with this planning during **Person Centered Planning**.

**Community Support Services** are the services, tasks or goods listed on your support and spending plan. These are the support you need each day to reach your goals. Goods are equipment and medical supplies that you buy to help with your disability.

Your support and spending plan will be sent to the Regional Medicaid Services office for approval. Your individual budget amount and a notice that your plan has been approved goes to the **Fiscal Employer Agent** (FEA). The fiscal employer agent keeps track of all the money and will pay for your services and supports with money from your budget account.

A **Community Support Worker** is a person that you hire to help you. A community support worker can be someone who works for a service agency or someone who does not work for a service agency.

## STATE NEWS

### Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita exposed severe shortcomings in local, state and national emergency response systems' abilities to evacuate and shelter people with disabilities. In an effort to prevent similar future occurrences, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities convened the "2006 Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly". Delegations from the majority of states and territories met in Washington DC in June and began to develop state/territory action plans.

Staff from the Council and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security represented Idaho. Following the conference the Bureau of Homeland Security convened planning meetings with Council staff and representatives from nine additional stakeholder agencies. Specific evacuation and sheltering guidelines were incorporated into an appendix to the revised Idaho Emergency Operations Planning Guide. The Guide has since been made available to all local government emergency management coordinators for their use in local emergency operations planning. Additionally, Council staff will offer further assistance to local government coordinators to insure that their plans include evacuation and sheltering operations plans people with disabilities.

### Get the Facts About Issues and Candidates

Do you know where candidates stand on issues important to you? Here's help to learn more about issues and candidates for the General election November 7th, 2006.

☑ The Idaho Voters' Pamphlet provides non-partisan information about propositions, political parties, and voter information. A copy of the pamphlet is mailed to every household in Idaho and is available through the Office of the Idaho Secretary of State.

- ☑ Listen to radio and TV talk shows.
  - ☑ Go to your local library where they will help you look up candidates voting records.
  - ☑ Make a list of what is important to you and check whether or not the candidates share your ideas.
  - ☑ Call candidates you want to learn more about and ask them where they stand on issues you care about.
- Here are more great places to learn more:

#### Where do I get information?



☑ **Idaho Votes** [www.idahovotes.gov](http://www.idahovotes.gov)

This web-site, managed by the Office of the Idaho Secretary of State, provides the following information: General Election Candidate List, Initiatives and constitutional amendment information, 2006 Voters' Pamphlet, how to find your polling place, voter registration.

☑ **Project Vote Smart** [www.projectvotesmart.org](http://www.projectvotesmart.org)

This web-site provides extensive nonpartisan information on elected officials' voting records and candidates' positions. It covers federal and state offices throughout the United States.

☑ **League of Women Voters** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

☑ **Idaho Democratic Party** [www.idaho-democrats.org/](http://www.idaho-democrats.org/)

☑ **Idaho Republican Party** [www.idgop.org/](http://www.idgop.org/)

☑ **Idaho Constitution Party** [www.constitutionpartyidaho.com/](http://www.constitutionpartyidaho.com/)

☑ **Libertarian Party of Idaho** [www.lpidaho.com/home.aspx](http://www.lpidaho.com/home.aspx)

☑ **Natural Law Party of Idaho**

59 Drake, Pocatello ID 83201

Phone: (208) 233-0129

Ann Vegors / Dr. Susan Vegors, Co-Chairmen

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Theresa Wilding Honored

At it's Annual Fall Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities presented their Clifford Fortner Leadership Award to former Idaho DD Council Chair, Theresa Wilding.

This national award honors a self-advocate with a developmental disability, nominated by a DD Council, who has demonstrated leadership and character and who has contributed to the growth of services and viability of the national organization. Theresa has been recognized for her contributions to NACDD, particularly in building bridges with Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) where she serves on their board.



Cliff was a jeweler and, in his memory, Theresa, as the recipient, received a diamond necklace and a plaque as well as having her costs paid to attend the meeting in Pittsburgh. Congratulations, Theresa!

### Five-Year Plan

*(continued from page 1)*

people, including adults, students in school settings, and parents of both school-age and adult children with developmental disabilities. People will learn about self determination, inclusive educational practices and how to recognize and prevent abuse and neglect. They will learn about voting and how to exercise their right to vote in local and general elections. Adults with developmental disabilities will learn how to form a statewide organization to have a voice in public policy making. Other objectives are aimed at improving opportunities for community employment, home ownership and transportation.

The Council will operate from a work plan that breaks down the five-year plan into measurable targets to be achieved by September 2007. Specific activities for achieving those targets and budget amounts are also contained in the work plan. Both the five year plan and the 2007 work plan can be found on the Council website at [www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov).

### IDEA Regulations Official

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was amended by Congress in December 2004. In August 2006, *final* regulations on this newest version of the IDEA were posted in the federal register. The final regulations focus on: ensuring that students with disabilities achieve to high standards, allow schools flexibility in spending resources, ensure that students have highly qualified teachers, reducing paperwork for educators and administrators, and strengthening parents' involvement in their children's education.

The websites below provide more information to changes in the new law and the field of special education.

Final regulations [www.nichcy.org/reauth/IDEA2004regulations.pdf](http://www.nichcy.org/reauth/IDEA2004regulations.pdf)  
NICHCY resources on IDEA:

[www.nichcy.org/resources/IDEA2004resources.asp](http://www.nichcy.org/resources/IDEA2004resources.asp)

[www.nichcy.org/idealist.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/idealist.htm)

From the US Department of Education: fact sheet

[www.ed.gov/admins/lead/speced/ideafactsheet.html](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/speced/ideafactsheet.html)



## EDITORIALS



*Rick Betzer,  
Chairperson*

### Get Out and Vote!

As I sit and contemplate the upcoming election, I am forced to consider the potential consequences to my family and those with whom I work and serve. Frequently I express my belief that we all should educate ourselves on issues of importance to us as individuals and to us as a nation.

Far too often we see people stepping up to the ballot box or the new voting machines made available through HAVA Determined to Vote, to cast a vote for someone merely because they recognize the name or believe they should vote for a Republican

or Democrat because of the party affiliation.

We, as individuals and as a community, must do all we can to ensure we know the person(s) we are voting for; that we know the issues and potential consequences; that we do not sit idly by and watch as others make the important decisions for us.

I have watched both parties attempt to lay claim to the moral high ground. While this is sometimes entertaining, waiting to see what retaliatory move will be next played by the offended party, I find it frustrating; annoying; sad; no, I think infuriating is the correct word, to describe my view of the games played in politics.

What happened to holding the

good of the Nation above all else? It appears getting elected has taken over this position. Why, when and how did we sink to this level?

We all know that no one is perfect. We should also know that no one political party is perfect. We all know that our vote counts.

Please help choose those who will be representing us at the local, state and federal level on November 7th. Vote for who YOU want! Don't get caught up in party line politics. Let's prove to all that we are proud to be able to vote. Prove we are proud to help run this great Nation! We are Americans and we are in charge of our country! NOW, GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!!!



*Marilyn Sword,  
Executive Director*

### The Importance of DD Councils

In 2007, Congress will take up reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. This is the federal law that authorizes DD Councils and their "sister" agencies, Protection and Advocacy programs and University Centers of Excellence in Disability Education, Research and Service.

The Act was first passed in 1971. It created a structure for planning and advocating community-based programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. This was part of the

effort to build an alternative system to institutional care. Thirty-five years later, although considerable strides have been made, the need for Councils and the work they do remains as important as ever.

If we have learned anything over the past third of a century, it is that systems change is hard work. Advocating for and with people who are often marginalized by society and helping them find their voice, is both exhilarating and challenging. Changing the way people think about disability is incremental, often one person at a time. But that is where the power is. As people with developmental

disabilities live, work, and go to school with their peers without disabilities, minds are changed. People are recognized as people first, instead of being labeled with their disability. And, accommodations are made that include everyone.

But that is the ideal and we are not there yet. By providing information on best practice, by funding demonstrations of new service models, by sponsoring training for self advocates and families, by commenting on public policies and their impact on people with disabilities, and by speaking out in support of those changes that give with

*(continued on page 8)*



## New Council Members Appointed

The Council is pleased to welcome our newest council members appointed by Governor Jim Risch. New members are **Penny Larson** from Dubois, **Shiloh Blackburn** from Rexburg, **Ame Linch** from Twin Falls, and **Leslie Clement** from Boise. Congratulations to everyone!

## New Council Chairperson - Rick Betzer

Governor Jim Risch has appointed Rick Betzer as Council Chair, effective July 1, 2006. Rick has served on the Council for six years and has served as Council Vice-Chair for the last year and a half. Rick steps in as Theresa Wilding steps down after serving three years as Council Chair. Congratulations Rick!

## Importance of DD Councils

*(continued from page 7)*

people with disabilities and their families real choices for real lives, Councils move us ever closer to that ideal. As Congress considers the reauthorization of Councils, they need only look to the thousands of people who live successful and independent lives as the result of Council initiatives.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### NOVEMBER 2006

- 2-3 Fall DD Council Meeting
- 7 General Election
- 9 Early Childhood Coordinating Council (formerly Infant Toddler Council)
- 11 Veteran's Day Holiday
- 16 Special Education Advisory Panel meeting
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Holiday

### DECEMBER 2006

- 8 Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition Meeting
- 14 Early Childhood Coordinating Council
- 25 Christmas Day Holiday

### JANUARY 2007

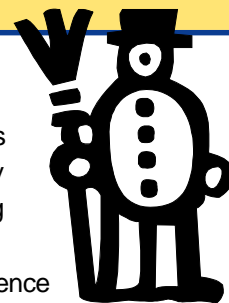
- 1 New Year's Day Holiday
- 8 Idaho Legislature Convenes
- 15 Human Rights Day Holiday
- 25-26 Winter DD Council Meeting

### FEBRUARY 2007

- 5-8 Independent Living Conference
- 8 Early Childhood Coordinating Council
- 19 President's Day Holiday
- 28 SALN Summit Begins

### Coming March 5 and 6, 2007:

**Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Fair** - sponsored by the Idaho DD Council and U of I Center on Disability and Human Development



To contact the DD Council: Phone: (208) 334-2178, Fax: (208) 334-3417, Email: [icdd@icdd.idaho.gov](mailto:icdd@icdd.idaho.gov)

Costs associated with this publication are available from Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code: 21800C05 92162 5,000 @.28 10/06

PRSR STR  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOISE, IDAHO  
PERMIT NO. 37

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

802 W. Bannock, Suite 308  
Boise, Idaho 83702

